



Littlefield Letters



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No. 8

AUGUST MUSTER CALL

date: Thursday
9 August 1990
time: 6:15 p.m.
Mess Call
place: Wyatt's Cafeteria
Hancock Center

Even though the National Convention will be going on in Fayetteville on this very same day, your Camp will still hold its monthly meeting for those not going to Arkansas. Of course, we hope some will go to the convention, but if you do not, come to your meeting.

The program this month will be presented by Past Commander Bruce Marshall. Bruce is not only a Past Cdr. of this camp, but also was a Past Division Commander, Past Cdr. of the Trans-Miss. Dep't., and Past Cdr. of the Johnston Camp in Houston. He has been named as the National Artist of the CSA, and Artist of the Confederacy.



Bruce will talk on "Destiny at Gaines Mill: One Family's Ordeal". Bruce says this is a human interest story--a "three kleenex affair". His Great Grandfather Col. John Marshall was with the 4th Texas. The War decimated the family leaving only two children who were raised by a family of Negroes, but it has a happy ending. Come hear this story for yourself. Y'all come.



SEN. BENTSEN SNUBS CONFEDERATES (from Rebel Rouser, Dallas)

Confederate Memorial Day Services have been held at Arlington Cemetery since 1914 to honor the nearly 500 Confederate soldiers interred there. Sec. of the Navy James Webb was this year's speaker. Presentation of floral tributes is a commonplace highlight. Sen. Phil Gramm participated, but Lloyd Bentsen refused to do so. Perhaps this is worth remembering in the future!

MUSEUM OPENS

CAMP DONATES \$100

Add another feather to the cap of the UDC. During a wonderful weekend in Waco July 14 & 15, the official move from Austin to Waco of the Texas Confederate Museum was accomplished. Of course, it is not complete. The ladies worked hard to have the few exhibits set up that they did. The complex is not even complete. However the move is made, and the Museum will have a formal opening later. In a public presentation, Cdr. Taylor gave Pres. Edith Williams a check for \$100 from the Camp to help with the increased costs of operating the Museum.

A number of folks came to the site to view the Confederate Infantry, Confederate Cavalry (compatriots and friends in the 8th Texas), and Confederate Artillery (Littlefield Battery). Cdr. Marlow Taylor and Dan Kuykendall were presented with the Jefferson Davis Medal. The Battery posted the Colors at a grave marking ceremony at the First Street Cemetery marking the graves of the brothers Harrison, Generals all in the CSA. We also carried flags during the grand opening ceremony and held them during the program on the inside. Greg Hector presented a program of Confederate Songs at the Banquet on the Bridge.

Attending from Camp #59 were Cdr. Taylor, David Morris, John Hagler, Todd Hector, Allen Matetzschk, Greg Hector, Dan Kuykendall, Kerry Hellums, and almosts Steven Vanderhoof and Glenn Hadelers.

At a recruiting table, the SCV found 40 men to join the Division and form a new camp in Waco. Congratulations to Brigade Cdr. John Perry for this good work.



WBTS BATTLEFIELDS UPDATE

(Cox News Service, Washington)

On Friday, July 20, Sec. of the Interior Manuel Lujan announced a plan to preserve endangered battlefields. They won't buy all the sites but will develop a strategy and seek state and private help. Lujan said these sites "are essential in conveying to citizens of every age how our ancestors fought for our closest held ideals." Twenty-five sites would be targeted now for purchase or for zoning protections, etc. Even though he seeks \$15 million, the project has to be more than just buying land.

(Editor's note--haven't we heard this before, and whose closest held ideals are to be targeted for preservation, theirs or ours?)



Above: The Colt 1849 Pocket Model revolver, made in 1862, with 6-inch barrel.

"BUMPER-SNICKER"

(from Bugle Call, Ft. Worth)

Seen recently on a Mercedes with Maryland plates:

"Have a Nice Day--Shoot a Damn Yankee"

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"THE SOUTH IN NORTHERN EYES"

This serial is an abridged, edited version of a program presented by Past Commander David O. Morris at the July Camp meeting.

Let's deal with a side of the question of the cause of the WBTS that rarely gets attention: the psychological conditioning of the Northern people prior to the War.

Some of our most famous writers were at work during the 30 years prior to the War. Literate people of the North were greatly influenced by the writings of such men as Whittier, Emerson, Thoreau, Longfellow, Bryant, Melville, Holmes, and Hawthorne. According to some, our nation's time of greatest crisis coincided with our greatest generation of writers.

Most of these writers wrote freely about conditions in the South. They even vied with each other in their denunciation of white Southerners. A close examination indicates that most of them knew little about the subject and were not particularly concerned with writing the truth about the South unless it served their cause. As antagonisms grew, these writers became involved, and their responses to these demands give us much insight into them and an added awareness of the debilitating effects of propaganda upon the process of literary creation.

Upon what was Northern opinion of the South based? Few Northerners knew what the South was like in the middle of the 19th century. Reliable news coverage on a national scale was unknown at the time. Travel was both slow and difficult. Only a small number of Northerners had been to the South. Even the Southerner tended to base his view of the South on his immediate region. Both sections were caught up in either pro- or anti-slavery propaganda.

What was the ante-bellum South really like? There has always been a tendency to mistake the planter aristocracy for the entire South and to envision the Southerner as simply a slave-holder. Statistics would show that the average Southerner of the 1850's would be a non-slaveholding white farmer who worked a few acres with the help of his wife and children. Of 8 million whites, less than 400,000 owned slaves. Of these only 200,000 owned as many as 10. A very small portion (4%, or 16,000) held 100 or more slaves. These large slaveholders, fictionalized by partisan pens, constituted the Northern image of the South.

In addition, a sense of history was conspicuously lacking in ante-bellum Northern views of the South. The Northerner seemed to forget that the beginnings of slavery coincided with the first English settlements in North America. During the seventeenth century slave traders joined in establishing in America--both North and South--an institution which was not "peculiar" in anyone's eyes for nearly two centuries. No generation alone was responsible for slavery, but each generation had to face the mounting social tensions and moral complexities that went with its growth. By the time prevailing ideologies of the world became opposed to slavery, the South had come to consider it indispensable to their economic and social well-being. Looking at the South from a historical perspective, slavery must be regarded more as a calamity than a crime. The tragedy must be considered an American tragedy.

New England would have to be considered the seat of idealism in the middle of the 19th Century. Since 1831 William Lloyd Garrison's "Liberator" had fanned the flames of this idealism which prepared it for the "stoking" that Harriet Beecher Stowe so effectively did with Uncle Tom's Cabin.



"Mine Eyes have seen the Gory"
a soldier's letter home
1864

Dear Mother, your son, upon this hour
of mind and body still;

has met the invading Northern power
with a Southern iron will.

Mine eyes have seen the carnage grow
with each and every day;

the crimson blood-red rivers flow
and lifeless bodies lay.

Tell Sister, her brother, is alright
and on this night be sleeping;

for I've made it through another fight
of sorrow and of weeping;

Mine ears have heard the screams of
boys
who were wounded from the fray;

for no one new remembers the joy
from a distant happier day.

Tell Father, that our stomachs ache
from want of food to eat;

and soldiers that our leaders make
while marching to the beat.

Mine nose can smell the burning skin
for there is no mistaking;

the shallow graves are dug again
and angels are nearby waiting.

Dear Mother, I write this letter to
you
with tearful eyes of sorrow;

for man has gone insane (that's true)
for another battle we fight tomorrow.

Steven J. Vanderhoof
6-14-90

- THE LITTLEFIELD LETTERS -

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